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SB 1298

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE PARK RANGER CORPS

Statement to
Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Public Hearing 2 March 1977

by
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SB 1298 would amend the State law regarding State Parks to provide for the establishment of a State Park Ranger Corps. This statement on the bill is being submitted for review to the legislative subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii, but does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

The appointment of Park Rangers to serve the State Park system has been considered for some time, at least informally. The functions identified for such rangers in SB 1298 are functions usefully performed in National Parks by Park Service rangers. These functions are appreciated, and there is every reason to suppose that they would be valued in the State Park system.

It should be recognized that these functions are different from those which would be performed by the rangers in the State Ranger Division that is proposed in SB 18. The primary function of the latter would be enforcement of conservation regulations. Securing compliance with State Park regulations would be only a fraction of the duties of the park rangers, their most important duties being essentially educational. We suggest, however, if SB 1298 is passed, that Park Rangers could well be deputized to serve as general rangers as well, so as to aid in the enforcement of conservation regulations.